

DETROIT NEWS (MI)  
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## CIA reassesses power of Soviet missile

**WASHINGTON** A CIA reassessment of the Soviet SS-19 intercontinental missile has concluded that the nuclear-armed weapon is less accurate and poses less of a threat to the U.S. missile force than first believed, administration sources said.

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane yesterday refused to confirm or deny the report, but said even if it were true the Soviets would still retain a massive advantage over the United States in land-based missiles.

The Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency said it disagrees with the CIA re-evaluation, contained in a secret report known as the National Intelligence Estimate, which is prepared annually by the CIA.

"We believe the CIA view is completely wrong," a Pentagon official said. "We believe the CIA analysis is based on incorrect assumptions. They've made a mistake. We are convinced the CIA is wrong and will

be proven wrong over time."

The Pentagon calculates the Soviet Union has deployed 360 of the six-warhead SS-19s, which the U.S. intelligence community previously characterized as having the capability to destroy U.S. Minuteman missiles in their silos.

U.S. officials used the SS-19 and the bigger SS-18, which carries 10 warheads each, to support arguments for building the 10-warhead MX to give the United States an appropriate nuclear counter-punch.

The CIA re-evaluation was first reported yesterday in the weekly National Journal magazine. Administration sources confirmed the account.

But U.S. officials suggested the reassessment had little significance because there is widespread agreement in the intelligence community that the SS-18 is sufficiently accurate to knock out all 1,000 Minuteman missiles.